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THE GLEAM OF HOPE

SLOWLY, BUT with seeming inevitableness, the country comes closer to the edge of war. The only happening that can prevent will be Germany's withdrawal from her determination to sink American ships without putting their crews and passengers in a place of safety.

Germany's determination to use her undersea power to the utmost was arrived at after long and painful consideration, the consequences of a rupture with the United States probably have been weighed, and it probably has been decided that the policy of ruthlessness will be more productive than the friendship of America.

There is a gleam of hope, but only a gleam. For some days there have been evidences that the submarine weapon is less effective. The tonnage destroyed is considerably less on the eleventh and twelfth of February, than it was at an earlier period.

Is the submarine defense gaining ground, has the intended campaign been partly suspended, pending further effort to negotiate with the United States, or does the program merely halt on its way to a maximum effectiveness?

The German goal is the destruction of 1,000,000 tons a month. This quantity of shipping it was thought must be destroyed in order to starve Great Britain. Unless the remainder of February is more productive than the first twelve days, less than half of the required tonnage will be destroyed.

Already something of the British method of protection appears. A great lane, through the threatened zone will be patrolled by armed vessels. Tiny but swift boats will scour the seas far and wide. If necessary, ships will be loaded with food, and the food vessels will receive powerful convoy.

Germany will know before long whether her U-boat plans can be realized. She should know before many days.

If the goal she has set, the destruction of tonnage equivalent to the starvation of Great Britain, cannot be attained, then she will be mistaken in her views of the relative productiveness of U-boat warfare and friendship with the United States.

If Germany should prove to her satisfaction that the U-boat campaign is not sufficiently productive, and the discovery should be made before war begins with America, the situation may be saved, and peace maintained.

There will be no sense in a war with the United States for a U-boat campaign that will not effectively cut off the British food supply.

The next few days should be full of interest. It will be shown that the world is powerless to save its commerce from submarine destruction, or, on the contrary, that this weapon also, is limited in its peculiar possibilities.

FOOD PRICE LEGISLATION

THE LEGISLATION recommended by the food commission in New York is less drastic than the bulk of such legislation proposed in Europe, but it does set up one principle, an ancient principle, upon which much future action will be based.

While, theoretically, all commodities are subject to price legislation, and have been for centuries, especially food, this regulation has almost never been applied upon American soil.

In fact, rate regulation in the United States has been mainly confined to commodities supplied by public service monopolies.

The theory with respect to food and other commodities has been that competition would regulate the price. This competition has failed to do. Throughout the world, peoples have been fixing a penetrating eye upon food production and food distribution, with the view of bringing prices down, and to insure an abundant supply.

Legislation to this end is abundant, and, quite unexpectedly, little of it takes the form of rate regulation.

A most successful means of cheapening food while making it plentiful has been found in government capital supplied to farmers and in promotion of co-operation among farmers, through government assistance and supervision. Various governments have promoted small holdings, and to this end have imposed a graduated land tax, resting lightly on small holders, and heavily on those who were keeping large tracts of land out of close settlement.

Canada fixes maximum prices for certain commodities, and makes it a felony to deal with food as, for instance, a large Chicago speculator recently dealt with eggs, when he put millions of dozens into cold storage and boosted the market until it returned him several hundred per cent. on his investment.

The trend of things is to insure the prime producer a substantial margin on his industry, then to get the goods to the consumer by the shortest, cheapest and most efficient route, with the maximum elimination of middle men.

The attempt of anybody to take a speculative profit of enormous size from dealings in food will soon be a crime in every part of the civilized world.

B'NAI B'RITH BANQUET

IF THE JEWISH people of Bridgeport needed any passport to the respect and affection of their fellow citizens, which they did not, it was abundantly furnished last night, at the B'nei B'rith banquet, which assembled a brilliant group of men and women, who were honored by the presence of the highest dignitaries of the state.

The high note of patriotism and loyalty was sounded. The spirit of America ran high. The Jewish citizens of Bridgeport make large contributions to the well being of their city. They are prepared to respond to the largest demands their country can make upon them.

Their own performance of civic duty, their diligence in industry, their charity to all men is the guarantee that the fragile walls of discrimination will fall before their onward march to increasing power and responsibility.

A FAILING CRITIC

THE SUN speaks of that Serbian assassination, as being the actual cause of the war.

Not in any real sense. One builds a house of cards which

by the nature of the structure, totters before the slightest shock. Some tiny movement, added in rhythm to others equally tiny, lays the card house low. The fall of it is intrinsic in the structure. It is bound to fall.

Europe had armed, and armed. Some had toasted to "The Day," and others had prepared for the day. The fight had long been brewing. It was inevitable and it came. The Serbian assassination was a pretext, not a cause.

NO NEGOTIATION

THE UNITED STATES, having demanded the safety of Americans on the high seas, and having severed diplomatic relations with the Imperial government, now will not open negotiations, unless that government renews its pledge for the protection of American citizens.

It is difficult to see, the situation being what it is, how the president could take any other course.

ST. VALENTINE'S EVE

In the most critical period in the world's history, with the most terrific war of the centuries raging in Europe and casting its menacing shadow over the remainder of the world, with the fate of the civilization, liberty and democracy which is the fruit of the travail of ages hanging in the balance, Cupid, undismayed and undaunted, continues his labors. At least, so one may surmise from the rushing business carried on by the dealers in those sentimental articles which are called "valentines", after a certain pious saint whose head was lopped off by a Roman executioner nearly sixteen and a half centuries ago.

It is well that Cupid is not to be hindered by the stormy war god Mars, else there would now be no war for the lack of humans to fight it! Well, indeed, unless one agrees with that gloomy Teuton, Schopenhauer, that the extinction of humanity through the suppression of Cupid is the boon most to be desired.

Not even in the trenches of Europe will St. Valentine be forgotten, and it is safe to predict that many a wife and sweet heart will receive from soldier boys crude valentines that will be treasured far beyond the most elaborate production to be purchased from a stationer. And many a soldier lad, in his underground home, will dream tonight of past eves of St. Valentine, and the festivities in memory's picture from all the rest.

Before the war Germany was the great center of the valentine industry, but the "Made in Germany" label is missing from this year's offerings to the devotees of the patron saint of lovers. Valentines of American and British make have taken the place of the German productions. The offerings of local dealers show much more artistic effects than those of past years, but the increase in the cost of all the materials that enter into the making of these love missives has resulted in a corresponding raise in price.

St. Valentine's Eve and Day have been observed as a festival of love for many centuries. The celebration of the feast of the lovers' saint is alluded to by the fifteenth century English poet Lydgate, and by Chaucer and Shakespeare and other writers of that period.

"On the eve of St. Valentine's Day," says Misson, a writer of the early part of the eighteenth century, "the young folks in England and Scotland, by a very ancient custom, celebrate a little festival. An equal number of maids and bachelors get together; each writes their true or some feigned name upon separate billets, which they roll up, and draw by way of lots, the maids taking the men's billets, and the men the maids', so that each of the young men lights upon a girl that he calls his valentine, and each of the girls upon a young man whom she calls hers. Fortune having thus divided the company into so many couples, the valentines give balls and treats to the mistresses, wear their billets several days upon their bosoms or sleeves, and this little sport often ends in love."

WALLIS

The career of a remarkable naval officer came to an end just a quarter of a century ago, today, Feb. 13, 1892, when Sir Provo William Parry Wallis, admiral of the fleet of England, died near Chichester, England. Sir Provo had celebrated his 100th birthday in the April previous to his death, and even as a centenarian he was retained on the rolls of the British navy by special order of Queen Victoria. He was a native of the New World, having been born in Halifax, N. S., in 1791. After a brief schooling in England, he entered the navy at the age of thirteen, when the Napoleonic wars were raging.

The feat of Wallis which has gained a permanent place in American history was the part he played in that terrible and bloody naval duel between the Shannon and the Chesapeake, fought off Boston harbor in 1813. Wallis, then twenty-two years old, was second lieutenant on board the Shannon, commanded by Capt. Philip Bowes Vere Broke. The Shannon, a frigate of fifty-two guns, was one of the vessels then blockading Boston harbor. Capt. Broke wrote to Capt. Lawrence, commander of the new American frigate Chesapeake, requesting the Chesapeake to meet the Shannon, "ship to ship, to try the merits of our respective flags." He assured Lawrence that the Chesapeake could not leave Boston without the risk of being crushed by a superior British force, and proposed that they should meet in single combat, without interference on either side. This sporting proposition was accepted by Lawrence, and a terrific battle was fought, in which the British ship was victorious, the American losing 146 in killed and wounded, while the British loss was eighty-four. Capt. Lawrence was mortally wounded, and Capt. Broke also received a serious wound and was unable to take active command. As the Shannon was victorious, she was to take charge of the Shannon and her prize. Wallis took the two vessels into the harbor of his native city, Halifax, where he was received with wild rejoicing. Lawrence died on the day before the ships reached the Nova Scotia metropolis. His remains were treated with great reverence, and turned over to the United States for funeral honors.

UNITED STATES CALLED TO COLORS.

London, Feb. 12.—A Reuter dispatch from Bernese says that the German authorities suddenly have called to the colors all officials of trade unions and socialist organizations. The officials, who aggregate 10,000 in number, previously have been exempted from military service.

NO POLITICS IN STATE MILITARY CENSUS PROJECT

Governor Holcomb Receives Pledges of Support From Two Major Parties.

There is absolutely no politics in the Connecticut military census which is now under way. Men of all parties are united in gathering this information concerning the resources of the state in men and materials, so that Connecticut may be fully prepared for its own defense if the hour of need ever comes.

Gov. Marcus H. Holcomb, speaking of this absence of politics in the canvass, said:

"I am glad that there is one thing which we can all unite upon, rising above the question of whether we are Democrats, Republicans or Socialists, or to what church we belong, meeting on the same common plane of patriotism, so that whether we have war or not, and I pray God war may not come, Connecticut may be found ready, as always, to do her part."

The following statement concerning the census was made by J. Henry Roraback, chairman of the Republican State Central Committee:

"There is a matter in which we all must co-operate, no matter what our political creed may be. The governor's military census plan must be carried through for the sake of the state of Connecticut. It is above politics. The state, through the committee of assistants to the governor, is welcome to use any part of the Republican state organization that it may find needed. I am sure the local Republican organizations, also, will offer to give every possible assistance in this splendid work."

Chairman David E. Fitzgerald of the Democratic State Central Committee made the following statement concerning the census:

"Of course a census of this kind is entirely outside politics. The census, such an important thing for our state and our nation, must be accomplished in the American spirit, without the least thought of partisanship. The Democratic State Central Committee can be relied upon to furnish any help that the governor's assistants may need or desire. Our party's local committees, too, even down to deputy registrars, will put at the disposal of the census takers all the information they have."

SONS OF VETERANS ENDORSE ACTION OF PRESIDENT WILSON

Resolutions approving the action of President Wilson in the present break with Germany and pledging their support to him and the government, have been adopted by Franklin Bartlett camp, No. 11, Sons of Veterans of this city. The resolutions declare that the members of the camp "unanimously endorse the patriotic position taken by President Wilson in the assertion of our country's rights and obligations in the present crisis with Germany and earnestly approve of the patriotic means taken by the President for the enforcement and maintenance of the rights of American citizens."

As their fathers before them gave moral and physical support to the government now, the committee, which has forwarded the resolutions to the President consists of Walter G. Moore, Judge Patrick Kane and F. L. Chapman. The camp will hold its annual Lincoln banquet at The Stratfield tomorrow evening.

GUARANTEED WATER BOTTLES

Every person must learn sooner or later that Water Bottles and other Rubber goods offered for sale at seemingly low prices are either inferior or seconds.

70c to \$2.50

And we stand back of each bottle one year.

FOUNTAIN SYRINGES

To meet the needs of every person's pocket book.

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Thursday, February fifteenth
the sale opens.

Bring room dimensions and obtain great bargains.

Third floor.

A Wardrobe Trunk

for your Southern trip

The modern Trunk is a wonderful invention and the Wardrobe Trunk is so constructed and arranged that an individual may "live in a trunk" with great convenience. One does not unpack or repack. He simply uses the trunk for closet and bureau.

Hartmann Wardrobes,

Styles from \$25.00 up

Full line of Steamer, Dress, Skirt, Hat and Motor Trunks now in stock.
Have you seen the Taxi-trunk?



Basement.

In Rose Time

Roses are expected, but right now in frigid February are some new corsage roses, a fresh "cutting" of pink, cream and blush beauties,
From 75 cts up

Violets,
\$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.00

The Queenly Orchid,
59 cts

Neckwear Section.



\$1.50

Stationery for Social Use

Correspondence Cards,
blue, pink, buff and white, 50 cts

Birthday Cards and Folders of attractive style, 5, 10 and 15 cts
Congratulation Cards and Folders, 15 and 25 cts

Place Cards for luncheon or dinner occasions, 15 cts to \$1.00 a doz.

Little "Stork Folders," 35 cts a doz.
Main floor.

Bits of Dress Trimmings

That are individual. Bead and Silk Embroidered Motifs to apply on gowns or separate skirts, for collar, girdle or pocket ornamentation.

Chinese Bands, Beaded Bands, Colored Embroidery in variety.

Trimming Section, main floor.

House Dresses

Neat styles in checked and plain gingham

Especially becoming little dresses for morning work about the house, and well made to the smallest detail. A good assortment now in all sizes.

From \$1.00 to \$3.50

Second floor.



\$1.50

Come and see the Painting "The Return from Calvary"

now on exhibition in the Furniture Gallery. It is a view across the City of Jerusalem from a house-top, to the Hill of Golgotha. Several figures are in the foreground. It is a very impressive picture.

Everyone is invited to see it.
Free, of course.

Fourth floor.

The D.M. Read Co.

Established 1877

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

Defective wiring caused a small blaze in the room of the Countess von Bernstorff on the third floor of the German embassy at Washington.

Gov. McCall of Massachusetts called on President Wilson and said his state would do anything necessary in the present international emergency.

Permission was granted by the home office of the Scandinavian-American line to sail the Frederick VIII, with Count von Bernstorff, the former German ambassador, and his staff, on board.

Ten persons were burned to death at South Bethlehem in a fire which destroyed a double dwelling occupied by a Greek store and boarding house.

Farmer Want Ads. One Cent a Word.

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At 98c—Ladies' long Flannelette Kimonos.
At \$1.69—Special lot very large White or Grey Blankets—at present market worth fully \$2.00.
At 58 and 98c—Two new sizes Teddy Bears—the children want them.
At 12½c—Large Turkish Towels.
At 22c—Extra fine White Goods—it will take a good deal more money to match these anywhere else.
At 50c—Special lot Boys' Sweaters.
At 98c—Ladies' Shirts—better than usual for the money.